Volume 1, Issue 3

**April 21, 2003** 

# Kennel Quarterly



**Special points of interest:** 

- Spring Training
- Spay-Neuter Clinic Progress
- ACO Receives Award
- URI Top 10
- Another New Employee Hired
- Volunteers Needed!

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Rochester Police Department Animal Services Unit

### **Adoption Numbers**

During the third quarter, our adoption figures were greater than those of the previous year's third quarter. We impounded 6 (0.7%) more dogs and 194 (46%) more cats compared to the third quarter last year.

There were 216 dog adoptions (27.5% of dogs impounded) during this third quarter compared to 146 (18.7%) last year. That represents 47.9% increase in absolute number of dog adoptions and a 8.8% increase in the adoption rate.

There were 109 cat adoptions (17.6% of cats impounded) this quarter compared to 78 (18.4%) last year. That's a 39.7% increase in absolute cat adoptions and a 0.8% decrease in the cat adoption rate.

The modest increase in dog adoptions numbers this quarter compared to last year must be qualified by a respective decrease in the number of dogs transferred to other shelters. Previously, dogs sent to Lollypop Farm, Animal Service League, or other rescue groups were processed as "transfers." However, throughout this fiscal year only animals taken to Lollypop Farm under our contractual agreement are processed as "transfers." All others are actually adopted by the respective rescue groups and are therefore processed as "adoptions."

That said, the number of dogs adopted plus those transferred was still slightly greater this year with 243 (31.0%) compared to last year's third quarter number of 230 (29.5%). The numbers of cat adoptions plus transfers were also similar between years with 197 (31.9%) this quarter and 145 (34.2%) in last year's third quarter.

Considering the inclement weather and lengthy winter, our adoption numbers for the

quarter were impressive. Hopefully we can continue to increase the number of successful adoptions, reduce relinquishments, and reduce unnecessary euthanasia.



Spencer was adopted during the third quarter



Latchie was also adopted during the third quarter.

# **Spring Training for Animal Services Personnel**

No, we're not sending our staff to play baseball in Fort Myers or St. Petersburg, Florida. However, several employees will be attending a variety of different workshops and conferences over the next few months.

March 27-28, ACTs Jessica Robinson and Pam Kent attended the American Humane Association's (AHA) Good, Better, Best: Adopting More Dogs Through Behavior Testing in Madison, NJ. ACTs Orlando Santos, Darrin Hillman, and Elaine Lalka were scheduled to attend the AHA's Shelter Operations School in Pittsburgh, PA. May 1-2, but that training has been postponed.

May 20-21, Supervisor Tim Wensel and ACO Andrew Ames will attend Chemical Immobilization of Animals at SUNY Delhi. May 27-30, ACOs Tabitha Herscha, Edwin Santiago, Matt Leach, Jeff Leusch, and Reggie Reed will attend the Animal Control Officers and Shelter Personnel Academy also at SUNY Delhi. May 29-31, Supervisors Tom Shannon and Dan Murphy will attend the National Animal Control Association's annual conference in St. Louis Missouri.

We are committed to seeking out and participating in professional training programs that will help our unit continue to excel. Page 2 Kennel Quarterly

Animal Services shelter in winter

# **Rochester Animal Services Statistics**

	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Cat</u>	<u>Other</u>
<u>January</u>			
Impounded	228	184	17
Adopted	68	31	3
Redeemed	43	0	9
Transferred	12	25	0
Euthanized	116	107	3
<u>February</u>			
Impounded	242	162	4
Adopted	63	32	0
Redeemed	57	2	0
Transferred	10	31	6
Euthanized	114	101	2
March			
Impounded	315	272	17
Adopted	85	46	12
Redeemed	75	5	1
Transferred	5	32	0
Euthanized	132	168	3

Rochester Animal Services temporarily houses approximately 7,000 animals annually. We are committed to reuniting owners with missing pets and to placing animals in new homes, however it is impossible to find homes for all of them. Some animals are euthanized due to illness or injury. Others may display vicious or aggressive temperaments. Currently, the City of Rochester does not authorize the adoption of "pit bulls" from the shelter, so those that are not reclaimed are euthanized or transferred to Lollypop Farm. Sadly, many animals are euthanized because there are just far too many stray and unwanted animals in our community and we do not have space to house them all. We must all take responsibility to spay and neuter our pets and to encourage others to do the same. If the number of animals coming in declines, then we can devote more time and energy to those animals we do shelter, we can increase adoptions and redemptions and decrease euthanasia.

"We must all take responsibility to spay and neuter our pets and to encourage others to do the same."

### **Green Team To Continue at Shelter**



Machon helps keep the shelter clean and inviting.

What's the Green Team? It is a three-month paid job-training program for 17-21 year olds, through the ARBOR Career Center that involves basic academics, job readiness training, and hands-on experience primarily in the "green" industry (e.g., landscaping, forestry, grounds keeping, environmental projects, etc...). Rochester Animal Services has been included in the list of potential worksites for Green Team students. In March, Andre Johnson completed his program and developed marketable skills in the animal care industry. Andre

may be considered for the vacant Animal Care Technician position at the shelter should that position be filled. Regardless, we are confident that Andre will take his experiences to his next job and that he will be an excellent animal care worker in a kennel, shelter, or veterinary hospital.

After meeting with Heidi Stulpin, Employment Coordinator for ARBOR Inc., we have decided to continue our participation in the program and we welcomed our next group of students, Wardell and Machon. The students train and work

alongside our Animal Care Technicians. They start out assisting our staff, but by the end of their programs the students will be assigned duties on their own and will be responsible for completing many of the same duties as our shelter personnel.

Such extra hands are particularly helpful during the current personnel shortages, but we are also excited to be helping train and stimulate interest in the animal care industry among these young workers.

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## From the Director's Chair

During the third quarter, we distributed the first two issues of the newsletter electronically throughout the RPD via Group-Wise. I received several messages commending our unit for the publication and a few offering suggestions for distribution. Subsequently, I created a "News" page on our web site for posting past and current newsletters. Now the material can be accessed by the public so that the community that we serve can remain informed of our activities and progress.

This latest issue reflects a number of suggestions from Assistant Manager, Yolanda Sayres. I challenged the staff to submit ideas for stories and articles, and Ms. Sayres answered that challenge. I appreciate the input and I have incorporated virtually all of her suggestions into this issue. Also Assistant Supervisor Tim Wensel suggested the employee profiles and I thought that was a great idea. It is a way for the Department and the community to put faces to our unit.

It was a long cold winter and we were short-staffed throughout, however our ACTs did an excellent job keeping the shelter running in good condition and stimulating adoptions. The ACOs maintained high levels of proactive enforcement and nuisance abatement.

Although faced with a few challenges, we are performing well and I am looking forward to the spring and summer seasons. We will again be represented at the summer festivals and are working on a schedule for appearances at Rhinos soccer games.

As always I welcome any comments, suggestions, and recommendations for future issues.

Chris Fitzgerald



Chris taking a breather from the final touches on this issue

# Kennel Noise (What's going on in the shelter)

In late March, we began to purchase an intranasal vaccine for Feline Upper Respiratory Infection to help combat the seemingly perpetual challenge the infections pose. For the first time at our shelter, we will be providing two vaccines, an oral and an intranasal vaccine. This extra precaution may help reduce the incidence of the infection but we still need to strive to improve our cleaning, disinfecting, and handling pro-

cedures. Cages need to be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly. Cats should be handled only minimally by staff and volunteers. Hands must be washed between each cat handled

Another recent change was the placement of foot wash bins outside of each door instead of inside the rooms. We are trying to make the foot baths more accessible in an effort to increase their use thereby reducing disease spread and crosscontamination. The foot baths should be used before entering and upon leaving each room in the kennel area.

We purchased 15 more automatic watering systems this quarter and they are scheduled for installation in the coming weeks. This will further reduce the number of cages that require frequent manual refilling of water bowls.



Foot wash bins line the hall-ways at the shelter.

# **New Faces**

In March, Victoria Crespo joined our staff as the Part-time Receptionist. Victoria is a fulltime student at Rochester Business Institute pursuing a degree in accounting.

Victoria wanted a job working with people, giving her more experience in customer service, and that would accommodate her academic schedule. It seems like a win-win relationship because we finally filled the perpetually vacant position with an enthusiastic individual and the job provides Victoria with the experience and schedule to meet her needs.

As always, we are thrilled to have a new person join our unit. Please join me in welcoming Victoria to Animal Services, the Rochester Police Department, and the City of Rochester.



Victoria Crespo

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Director Chris Fitzgerald (left) presents ACO Parkinson (center) with Certificate of Excellence and Supervisor Tom Shannon (right) displays Outstanding Employee plaque.

# **ACO Rescues Two Dog Bite Victims on Ellison Street**

On February 4, 2003, Animal Control Officer Fred Parkinson was dispatched on a call for loose dogs on Ellison Street. When Parkinson arrived on scene he spotted the dogs from his vehicle. The two pitbull-type dogs ran past Parkinson's van toward an oncoming pedestrian. That pedestrian was a 15 year-old girl walking home from school. As Parkinson turned his vehicle around to follow the dogs, he witnessed them attack the girl's purse. Parkinson called for Police assistance and exited his vehicle to assist the girl.

As Parkinson approached the dogs and the girl, he saw a man, William Barber, running toward the victim who had now

fallen to the ground and was being bitten on her left leg by the male dog while the female dog circled and nipped. Both Barber and Parkinson began striking the dogs to get them to release the grip and free the victim. Barber used a shovel and Parkinson used his control pole.

While swinging the shovel at the dogs, Barber lost his footing and fell to the ground. The male dog released his grip of the girl and bit Barber on his right hand. Parkinson continued to strike the attacking dog until the dog released his bite on Barber's hand. Then Barber assisted Parkinson in getting the girl safely into the Animal Control van. Barber then re-

turned to the safety of this own house on Ellison Street.

Parkinson called for an ambulance and noticed the dogs return to the porch at 38 Ellison Street. Police and Animal Control assistance arrived, secured the street, and seized the dogs. Citations were issued on scene to the dog owner, Shawta Hughes of 38 Ellison Street and subsequently the dogs were deemed "dangerous" and humanely euthanized as a result of a court proceeding.

Parkinson was presented with a Certificate of Excellence and an Outstanding Employee Award by the Animal Services Unit and has also been nominated for an RPD award for his heroic actions.

"...more animals
will be healthy
enough for
surgical
sterilization, and
fewer will leave
without being
sterilized."

# **More Progress on Spay-Neuter Clinic**

As many of you know, we are planning to incorporate an onsite spay-neuter clinic into the shelter so that surgical sterilizations can be performed in our facility prior to adopting out animals into new homes. A second goal is to increase the number of observation areas for housing and treating unhealthy animals. If we can treat more dogs with kennel cough and more

cats with URI, then more animals will be healthy enough for surgical sterilization, and fewer will leave without being sterilized.

This quarter we submitted a purchase request for a surgical table, surgery light, and two banks of cages for the observation rooms. These items will be purchased using the \$10,000 grant that we received from

PETsMART Charities last summer. We have also contacted Architectural Services and are tentatively on the work list for this summer. With the money received as unsolicited donations, compensation for participation in events with PETsMART, and money from cash capital we should be close to the estimated construction cost.

# **Some Helpful Tips For Our Local Pet Guardians**



Veterinary Technician vaccinates a cat for rabies at the shelter.

- 1. Spay and neuter your pets!
  Sterilized animals will not produce unwanted litters or contribute to the overpopulation of stray animals; they will display fewer undesirable behaviors like spraying and mounting; they are less likely to bite or attack; they are less likely to roam; and they will live longer, healthier lives.
- 2. Dogs are social animals and do not respond well to isola-
- tion. Try to avoid chaining dogs up outside without regular contact with you and your family. The more contact your dog has with different people and animals under different circumstances, the better it will do when faced with new situations. Excessive barking and aggression are two results of not socializing one's dog and chaining it up in the yard.
- Keep your pets up to date on their vaccinations. All dogs, cats, and ferrets are required to be vaccinated for rabies at four months of age. Contact your vet today to find out what is required or recommended for your pet.
- Exercise your dogs. Play non-competitive games like fetch. A tired dog is a happy dog.

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### Who's Who At Animal Services?

#### Frederick Parkinson III

was born in Rochester. He attended the School of the Arts for trumpet and remains an avid fan of jazz music. Fred was hired by the Humane Society in 1996 as a Kennel Attendant for Rochester Animal Services, Inc. After a few years Fred was promoted to ACO. Fred left the shelter for a short period and then was re-hired as a Kennel Attendant. When the Rochester Police Department assumed control of the operation in June 2000, Fred was hired as an ACT. He was promoted to ACO in September 2001. Fred enjoys dealing with animals and trying to help people. He dislikes the irresponsibility that he witnesses among pet owners. To that end, Fred tries to increase awareness and offers suggestions and options to the people he addresses in the field. Fred is also the father of Haley and is expecting the arrival of Frederick Parkinson IV

in a matter of weeks.

**Denise Lybrand** was born in Mt. Vernon, New York and attended Churchville Chili H.S. After high school, Denise attended Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio where she studied accounting. When she graduated, Denise returned to Rochester and worked as Assistant Cost Accountant and then Payroll Specialist for Pfaudler. Denise was contemplating a career change and taking classes at MCC when she received a dog as a gift. That gift, named "Tara," changed her life and crystallized her interest in animal care. Denise was hired by the Humane Society in 1993 as a Kennel Attendant at RAS and was promoted to Kennel Supervisor within a year. She made the shift to ACO in 1998 because she wanted to educate people and try to prevent as many animals from coming into the shelter. Denise was hired by RPD as an ACO in June 2000 and played a vital role in training and familiarizing the rookie ACOs with the job. Denise enjoys interacting with and educating people in the field. She dislikes the view of animals as "disposable" and not worthy of attention, effort, or minor expenses that might help prevent future problems.

Darrin Hillman was born in Albion, Orleans Co, NY and attended Albion H.S. After graduating, Darrin served 4 years in the USMC stationed in Beaufort, South Carolina. He attended the Univ. of South Carolina for 2 years before returning to Rochester to be closer to family. Darrin was hired as an ACT in June 2000. He enjoys working with the animals but dislikes seeing animals suffering from abuse or neglect. Darrin has a 12 year old son named Kevin.







ACO Parkinson (top), ACO Lybrand (middle), and ACT Hillman (bottom)

# Top 10 Reasons Why Upper Respiratory Infection Is Such A Problem

- 10. Cats come into the shelter sick.
- Cats come into the shelter appearing healthy but are actually incubating disease.
- 8. Some incoming cats are malnourished.
- 7. Some cats are heavily infested with parasites.
- Some cats have other disease processes going on such as FeLV or FIV.
- 5. Overcrowding
- Stress
- 3. Cats not vaccinated and processed upon arrival.
- 2. Cages, litter boxes, etc. not cleaned and disinfected thoroughly
- 1. YOU! Hands not being washed between cats, clothes carrying germs between cats, too much well-intentioned but detrimental handling, petting, and playing with cats.

Submitted by Andrew Newmark, D.V.M.



# Rochester Police Department **Animal Services Unit**

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Get personal. Adopt a pet.

Animal Services is a municipal animal care and control unit within the Rochester Police Department that is committed to improving quality of life and safety for city residents, the promotion of responsible pet guardianship, and the reduction of animal overpopulation to reduce animal suffering and euthanasia. Animal Services enforces all New York State and City of Rochester ordinances pertaining to animal control. We operate an animal shelter for stray, injured, menacing, and disowned animals. The shelter serves as a resource for locating lost pets and as an adoption center. We strive to provide the best possible care for all animals in our charge.

### VISIT US ONLINE

#### WWW.ROCHESTERANIMALSERVICES.COM

#### **Volunteer Corner**

Dina Marrocco will be attending Wells College in the fall to begin working on a degree in Veterinary Technology. Dina has been volunteering since February 2001 and has been actively involved in our off-site adoption promotions at PETsMART, Frontier Field, and The Corn Hill Arts Festival. We are thrilled to have been able to offer Dina experience that she may use in her career aspirations and we know she will excel in all that she does. Congratulations Dina. We wish you well and thank you for your years of dedicated service.

We would also like to extend our thanks to all of the volunteers who helped out with the PETSMART Santa Claws photo events. As a result of your participation at both Greece and Henrietta locations, Animal Services received a check from PETSMART for \$905! That money has been deposited into our spay/neuter fund and will be used toward the incorporation of an on-site spay/neuter clinic at the shelter. Thanks to all of Santa's helpers and to PETSMART!



Dina grooming a dog at the shelter last summer